

Blind gives people the confidence and independence to contribute to society and fulfill personal dreams of having a job. In so doing, they transform lives.

In my Congressional District in Western North Carolina, Industries for the Blind of Asheville has served as an important resource for 20 years. They provide much needed assistance and services such as mobile low-vision eye exams, innovative outreach programs for children and families, and optical services to our veterans. I would especially like to congratulate Industries for the Blind of Asheville on its eighth consecutive win of a Sky High Growth Award from the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce for outstanding growth in sales and employment. The Asheville facility has increased its work force ten-fold since 1991, growing from just 9 employees to 100.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today to recognize the 75 years of civic leadership that Industries for the Blind has provided the visually impaired in Asheville, North Carolina and throughout the country. Their commitment to helping others live meaningful lives is courageous and uplifting. I am honored to celebrate Industries for the Blind's inspirational role in our community.

A TRIBUTE TO DOTTIE AND
DARRELL RUSHER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dottie and Darrell Rusher for being the recipients of the Family Tradition Award at the 2011 Humboldt County Spirit Awards.

The Humboldt County Spirit Awards were established to recognize and honor outstanding groups and individuals who have worked for the benefit of all citizens of Humboldt County, to celebrate the accomplishments and activities of our communities, to acknowledge the value of volunteerism in the county, and to have a positive impact on community spirit.

Annually included in the Spirit Awards, the Family Tradition Award is presented to a family who demonstrates support and devotion to the community through volunteerism. Dottie and Darrell have truly exhibited both support and commitment to Humboldt County for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Dottie and Darrell in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in commending them for their sincere dedication to establishing a better community and I wish them continued success well into the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, I was unexpectedly detained for one vote.

Had I been present I would have voted: on rollcall No. 302—"no"—Hanabusa of Hawaii

amendment No. 4, an amendment to H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act.

CELEBRATING THE THIRD ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE INAUGURA-
TION OF TAIWANESE PRESIDENT
MA YING-JEUO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, May 20, 2011 marks the third anniversary of the Inauguration of Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou.

Much has transpired in those three years. Wars continue to plague our society. However, in the Taiwan Strait, tensions have abated and much of the credit must be given to President Ma for the courageous efforts he has made to lessen the tensions between China and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

While protecting the interests of the people of Taiwan, President Ma has made marked progress in the dialogue between the People's Republic of China (mainland China) and the Republic of China (Taiwan), thereby advancing peace in the Pacific.

For this he is to be congratulated and commended and we wish him much continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO LEROY AND JAN
JORGENSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leroy and Jan Jorgensen for being the recipients of the Neighborhood Beautification Award at the 2011 Humboldt County Spirit Awards.

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Annually included in the Spirit Awards, the Neighborhood Beautification Award is presented to recognize an individual or group who has set an example by improving, beautifying and restoring Humboldt neighborhoods. Mr. and Mrs. Jorgensen were nominated this year because of the enjoyment the residents of Humboldt receive from their gardens. They are often kind enough to host programs on gardening to assist others beautifying their homes and neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Leroy and Jan in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in commending them for their sincere dedication to establishing a better community and wish them continued success well into the future.

HONORING U.S. ARMY STAFF SER-
GEANT MATTHEW HERMANSON'S
SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life and sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Matthew D. Hermanson of Appleton, Wisconsin, who died on April 28, 2011, in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Staff Sgt. Hermanson was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sgt. Hermanson embodied the best qualities of a true American soldier. His service has made Northeast Wisconsin and his country proud. He was selfless, dedicated and brave. During his service, Matthew earned the respect of his peers and numerous medals and honors for valor including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He is remembered by his family and friends as a man of strong character, a dedicated husband and son who believed in family and community.

It is my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Staff Sergeant Matthew D. Hermanson for the sacrifice he has made for the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO SALLY GORDON

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Sally Gordon. At the age of 102, Sally concluded 37 years of dedicated service to the Legislature of State of Nebraska when she retired as its assistant sergeant-at-arms on April 26, 2011.

Known for colorful hats and scarves, her signature flair, Sally has a long history in Lincoln, Nebraska. She watched the Nebraska Capitol being built from 1922 to 1932 and served as secretary to three governors. But in 1984, she became an institution in the Nebraska Legislature. Sally became the state's first female sergeant-at-arms, a role she relished. She helped maintain order and deliver messages from constituents to state senators on the floor.

Sally's quick wit and sunny disposition was admired by all who met her, including myself. It was my honor to work with Sally when I served as a Nebraska State Senator because she was always friendly, helpful, and inspiring. Sally's character is best reflected when she said, "I've been working for 84 years and I've had many interesting jobs. I've met movie stars and presidents, but the people of Nebraska are the ones I love."

In 2010, Sally was named "America's Outstanding Oldest Worker" by Experience Works, and for good reason. Often called the "Energizer Bunny," Sally is a Nebraska treasure who models a productive life no matter your age.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the career of Ms. Sally Gordon as she begins her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING LT. MICHAEL P.
MURPHY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Lt. Michael P. Murphy. Lt. Murphy grew up in the Long Island town of Patchogue and fulfilled his dream of becoming a (U.S.) Navy SEAL in 2002. He served honorably in Jordan, Qatar, Djibouti, and made the ultimate sacrifice during his deployment to Afghanistan. Lt. Murphy and three of his fellow SEALs were killed during their mission to find a key Taliban commander. Lt. Murphy posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his "undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and inspirational devotion to his men in the face of certain death."

I am proud to stand with the Navy which decided to name its newest warship in honor of Lt. Murphy on what would have been his 35th birthday. The USS *Michael Murphy* DDG-112, a guided-missile destroyer, will be able to carry on the legacy of its namesake by performing a multitude of tasks including crisis management, sea control, and power projection. It will also be able to conduct air, surface, and below surface operations in support of maritime warfare.

It was fitting that the christening ceremony of the USS *Michael Murphy* occurred just one week after the successful operation to hunt down and kill Osama bin Laden. We owe a great deal of thanks to people like Lt. Murphy, the Navy SEALs, and all the men and women of our military. These brave individuals put their lives at risk everyday to keep us safe. May God Bless America and all the brave men and women who protect us at home and overseas.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. HARMON AND
DR. ILLG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dean Harmon and Dr. James Illg for being the recipients of the Friends of Animals Award at the 2011 Humboldt County Spirit Awards.

The Humboldt County Spirit Awards were established to recognize and honor outstanding groups and individuals who have worked for the benefit of all citizens of Humboldt County, to celebrate the accomplishments and activities of our communities, to acknowledge the value of volunteerism in the county, and to have a positive impact on community spirit.

Annually included in the Spirit Awards, the Friends of Animals Award is presented to those whose acts of compassion ensure the health and well-being of our animal friends for conservation practices and efforts in the interest of preserving our wildlife. Doctors Harmon and Illg have consistently used their talents to support 4-H and ensure the safe purchase of auction animals in Humboldt County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Dr. Harmon and Dr. Illg in the United States Con-

gress. I know that my colleagues join me in commending them for their sincere dedication to establishing a better community and wish them continued success well into the future.

**PRESIDENT MA YING-JEU'S
THIRD ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE**

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of President Ma Ying-jeou's third anniversary in office this May 20, I wish to express my congratulations to the leaders and the people of the Republic of China.

Mr. Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated as President of the Republic of China on May 20, 2008. During the last three years, Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou has steadily and dramatically improved Taiwan's relations with the Chinese mainland. There are now 370 direct flights from cities in Taiwan to cities in China every week, relaxation of China-bound investments, more visas for mainland tourists and more exchange in many areas.

Committed to pursue reconciliation with the People's Republic, President Ma believes in a systematized dialogue between the two sides, the development of healthy cross-strait relations and the advancement of regional peace and stability. He argues that Taiwan and the PRC can co-exist while maintaining their differences. A win-win situation, President Ma opines, is in the best interest of all Chinese people and the world. As a result of his vision, peace is prevailing in the Taiwan Strait today.

Business is also good for both the Taiwanese and Chinese people. Taiwan and China inked the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) last summer and President Ma has restarted the institutionalized cross-strait talks. As Members of this body, we thank President Ma for his courage and wisdom in initiating and continuing a pragmatic and yet flexible approach in handling cross-strait relations.

While cultivating a peaceful development across the Taiwan Strait, President Ma has also been working closely with the U.S. government. Our mutual relationship is strong and we applaud Taiwan's cooperation with us, especially in the war against global terrorism.

We are confident that relations with Taiwan will grow even stronger in all areas, including trade, science and technology, educational exchange, military sales and Taiwan's participation in international agencies. For the last three years, U.S.-Taiwan relations have been excellent, far superior to any period in recent memory.

I am pleased that Taiwan was once again invited to attend this year's World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland as an observer and I am hopeful that Taiwan's continued participation in the WHA will lead to Taiwan's participation in the activities of other international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In celebrating President Ma's third anniversary in office, I credit him for these successes and join with my colleagues in extending our best wishes to him for his continued success.

RECOGNIZING ROD DOLE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Rod Dole of Sonoma County, California, who is retiring May 31, 2011, after 25 years as the County's Auditor-Controller. During his long tenure, Mr. Dole was responsible for overseeing a wide variety of County financial operations, including serving as Treasurer-Tax Collector when those positions were consolidated with his office 5 years ago.

With a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and certification as both an Internal Auditor and a Government Financial Manager, Rod Dole was hired as an auditor in 1976. He was appointed to the Auditor-Controller post in 1985 and subsequently elected. He continued to be re-elected by residents who appreciated his confident and sure hand in this key position. He has served in a number of related organizations including Chair of various committees in the State Auditor-Controllers and Treasurer-Tax Collector Associations, the State Controller, and the State Treasurer as well as President of the State Auditor-Controllers Association.

Locally, Mr. Dole has worked with a variety of service clubs and non-profit organizations, on the board of Redwood Credit Union, and on the boards of both the Sonoma State University School of Business and Economics and the President's Advisory Committee.

A man of many accomplishments in his field, he is particularly known for authoring State legislation for the "Teeter Credit" regarding property tax payments to local agencies; chairing State committees on property tax guidelines and spending limits; and most recently for administering the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP), a national model for a mechanism permitting loans for energy efficiency upgrades through property taxes. He advocated strongly for the program in the face of Federal restrictions on such loans, and SCEIP has won numerous awards as well as a \$3 million grant from the California Energy Commission.

It is a key component of Sonoma County's leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving energy and has provided hundreds of local construction jobs.

Rod Dole looks forward to his retirement with Kathie, his wife of 35 years, and will have time to appreciate his cabin at Lake Almanor and his hobbies of golf, fishing, boating, tennis, and woodworking. He also has two children, Laura and Michael.

Mr. Speaker, we ask you to join us in commending Rod Dole's 35 years of service to the people of Sonoma County. We wish him an enjoyable retirement with his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, I was inadvertently detained and thus I missed rollcall vote